

FIC

- So having said, he thus to Eve in *few*:
 Say, woman, what is this which thou hast done? *Milton*.
 Thus Jupiter in *few* unfolds the charge. *Dryden's En.*
 The firm resolve I here in *few* disclose. *Pope's Odyssey*.
FIC'WEL. *n. f.* [*feus*, French.] Combustible matter; materials for keeping fire: as firewood, coal.
 If a spark of error have thus far prevailed, falling even where the wood was green, and farthest off from any inclination unto furious attempts, mult not the peril thereof be greater in men, whose minds are as dry *fewels*, apt beforehand unto tumults, seditions and broils? *Hooker, Dedication*.
 Others may give the *fewel* or the fire;
 But they the breath, that makes the flame, inspire. *Denham*.
 A known quantity of *fewel*, all kindled at once, will cause water to boil, which being lighted gradually will never be able to do it. *Bentley's Sermons*.
 To **FIC'WEL**. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To feed with *fewel*.
 Never, alas! the dreadful name,
 That *fewels* the infernal flame. *Cowley*.
FIC'WNESS. *n. f.* [from *few*.]
 1. Paucity; smallness of number.
 These, by reason of their *fewness*, I could not distinguish from the numbers of the rest with whom they are embodied. *Dryden's Preface to the Hind and Panther*.
 2. Paucity of words; brevity; conciseness.
FIC'WNESS and truth, 'tis thus. *Shakef. Meas. for Measure*.
 To **FIC'W**. *v. a.* [*veighen*, Dutch.] To cleanse a ditch of mud.
 Such muddy deep ditches and pits in the field,
 That all a dry Summer no water will yield,
 By *feying* and casting that mud upon heaps,
 Commodities many the husbandman reaps. *Tuff. Husband*.
FIB. *n. f.* [A cant word among children.] A lye; a falsehood.
 Destroy his *fib* or sophistry; in vain,
 The creature's at his dirty work again. *Pope's Epistles*.
 I so often lie,
 Scarce Harvey's self has told more *fib*s than I. *Pope*.
 To **FIB**. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To lie; to tell lyes; to speak falsely.
 If you have any particular mark, whereby one may know when you *fib*, and when you speak truth, you had best tell it me. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull*.
FIBBER. *n. f.* [from *fib*.] A teller of *fib*s.
FIBRE. *n. f.* [*fibres*, Fr. *fibra*, Latin.] A small thread or string; the first constituent parts of bodies.
 Now sliding streams the thirsty plants renew,
 And feed their *fibres* with reviving dew. *Pope*.
 2. A *fibres*, in physics, is an animal thread, of which there are different kinds: some are soft, flexible, and a little elastic; and these are either hollow, like small pipes, or spongy and full of little cells, as the nervous and fleshy *fibres*: others are more solid, flexible, and with a strong elasticity or spring, as the membranous and cartilaginous *fibres*: and a third sort are hard and flexible, as the *fibres* of the bones. Now of all these some are very sensible, and others destitute of all sense: some so very small as not to be easily perceived; and others, on the contrary, so big as to be plainly seen; and most of them, when examined with a microscope, appear to be composed of still smaller *fibres*: these *fibres* first constitute the substance of the bones, cartilages, ligaments, membranes, nerves, veins, arteries and muscles. And again, by the various texture and different combination of some or all of these parts, the more compound organs are framed; such as the lungs, stomach, liver, legs and arms, the sum of all which make up the body. *Quincy*.
 My heart sinks in me while I hear him speak,
 And every slacken'd *fib*re drops its hold,
 Like nature letting down the springs of life:
 The name of father awes me still. *Dryd. Spanish Fryar*.
FIBRIL. *n. f.* [*fibrilla*, French.] A small fibre or string.
 The muscles consist of a number of fibres, and each fibre of an incredible number of little *fibrils* bound together, and divided into little cells. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*
FIBROUS. *adj.* [*fibreux*, French, from *fibres*.] Composed of fibres or stamina.
 The difference between bodies *fibrous* and bodies viscous is plain; for all wool and tow, and cotton and silk, have a greediness of moisture. *Bacon's Natural History*.
 I saw Petrus' arms employ'd around
 A well-grown oak, to root it from the ground;
 This way and that he wrench'd the *fibrous* bands,
 The trunk was like a sapling in his hands. *Dryden*.
 The *fibrous* and solid parts of plants pass unaltered through the intestines.
FIBULA. *n. f.* [Latin.] The outer and lesser bone of the leg, much smaller than the tibia: it lies on the outside of the leg; and its upper end, which is not so high as the knee, receives the lateral knob of the upper end of the tibia into a small sinus, which it has in its inner side. Its lower end is received into the small sinus of the tibia, and then it extends into a large process, which forms the outer ankle. *Quincy*.
FICKLE. *adj.* [*picol*, Saxon.]
 1. Changeable; unconstant; irresolute; wavering; unsteady; mutable; changeable; without steady adherence.

FID

- Remember where we are,
 In France amongst a *fickle* wavering nation. *Shak. Hen. VI*.
 A slave, whose easy borrow'd pride
 Dwells in the *fickle* grace of her he follows. *Shak. K. Lear*.
 Or likest hovering dreams,
 The *fickle* pensioners of Morpheus' train. *Milton*.
 They know how *fickle* common lovers are;
 Their oaths and vows are cautiously believ'd;
 For few there are but have been once deceiv'd. *Dryden*.
 We in vain the *fickle* sex pursue,
 Who change the constant lover for the new. *Prior*.
 2. Not fixed; subject to vicissitude.
 He would be loth
 Us to abolish; lest the adversary
 Triumph, and say, *fickle* their state, whom God
 Most favours! *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. ix.
FICKLENESS. *n. f.* [from *fickle*.] Inconstancy; uncertainty; unsteadiness.
 Neither her great worthiness, nor his own suffering for her, could fetter his *fickleness*; but, before his marriage-day, he had taken to wife that Baccha of whom the complained. *Sidney*.
 Beware of fraud, beware of *fickleness*,
 In choice and change of thy dear loved dame. *Fairy Queen*.
 I am a soldier, and unapt to weep,
 Or to exclaim on fortune's *fickleness*. *Shakef. Henry VI*.
 Instability of temper ought to be checked, when it disposes men to wander from one scheme of government to another, since such a *fickleness* cannot but be attended with fatal consequences. *Addison's Freeholder*, N^o. 25.
 Whether out of *fickleness* or design I can't tell, I found that what she liked one day she disliked another. *Addison*.
FICKLY. *adv.* [from *fickle*.] Without certainty or stability.
 Do not now,
 Like a young wasteful heir, mortgage the hopes
 Of godlike majesty on bankrupt terms,
 To raise a present pow'r that's *fickly* held
 By the frail tenure of the people's will. *Southern*.
FICCO. *n. f.* [Italian.] An act of contempt done with the fingers, expressing a *fig* for you.
 Having once recovered his fortress, he then gives the *fig* to all that his adversaries can by siege, force, or famine attempt against him. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall*.
FICTILE. *adj.* [*fictilis*, Latin.] Moulded into form; manufactured by the potter.
 The cause of fragility is an impotency to be extended; and therefore stone is more fragil than metal, and so *fictile* earth is more fragil than crude earth. *Bacon's Nat. History*.
FICTION. *n. f.* [*fictio*, Latin; *fictio*, French.]
 1. The act of feigning or inventing.
 If the presence of God in the image, by a mere *fiction* of the mind, be a sufficient ground to worship that image, is not God's real presence in every creature a far better ground to worship it?
Fiction is of the essence of poetry, as well as of painting: there is a resemblance in one of human bodies, things, and actions, which are not real; and in the other of a true story by a *fiction*. *Dryden's Duress*.
 2. The thing feigned or invented.
 If through mine ears pierce any consolations,
 By wise discourse, sweet tunes, or poets *fictions*;
 If ought I cease these hideous exclamations,
 While that my soul, she, she lives in affliction. *Sidney*.
 So also was the *fiction* of those golden apples kept by a dragon, taken from the serpent, which tempted Evah. *Raleigh*.
 3. A falsehood; a lye.
FICTIOUS. *adj.* [*fictus*, Latin] Fictitious; imaginary; invented. A word coined by *Prior*.
 With fancy'd rules and arbitrary laws
 Matter and motion man restrains,
 And study'd lines and *fictious* circles draws. *Prior*.
FICTITIOUS. *adj.* [*fictitious*, Latin.]
 1. Counterfeit; false; not genuine.
 Draw him strictly so,
 That all who view the piece may know
 He needs no trappings of *fictitious* fame. *Dryden*.
 2. Feigned; imaginary.
 The human persons are as *fictitious* as the airy ones; and Belinda resembles you in nothing but in beauty. *Pope*.
 3. Not real; not true.
 Milton, sensible of this defect in the subject of his poem, brought into it two characters of a shadowy and *fictitious* nature, in the persons of sin and death, by which means he has interwoven in his fable a very beautiful allegory. *Addison's Spectator*.
FICTITIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *fictitious*.] Falsely; counterfeitedly.
 These pieces are *fictitiously* set down, and have no copy in nature. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*, b. v. c. 20.
FID. *n. f.* [*fitta*, Italian.] A pointed iron with which seamen untwist their cords. *Skinner*.
FIDDLE. *n. f.* [*pucele*, Saxon; *vedel*, Dutch; *fidel*, German; *fidelis*, Latin; *fiddle*, Erse.]
 1. A stringed instrument of music; a violin.

FIE

- In trials of musical skill the judges did not crown the *fiddle*, but the performer.
 The adventure of the bear and *fiddle*
 Is sung; but breaks off in the middle. *Hudibras*.
 She tried the *fiddle* all over, by drawing the bow over every part of the strings; but could not, for her heart, find whereabout the tune lay. *Addison's Guardian*, N^o. 98.
 To **FIDDLE**. *v. n.* [from the noun.]
 1. To play upon a fiddle.
 Themistocles being desired at a feast to touch a lute, he said he could not *fiddle*, but he could make a small town a great city. *Bacon's Essays*.
 Others import yet nobler arts from France,
 Teach kings to *fiddle*, and make senates dance. *Pope*.
 2. To trifle; to shift the hands often, and do nothing, like a fellow that plays upon a fiddle.
 A cunning fellow observed, that old Lewis had stole away part of the map, and saw him *fiddling* and turning the map, trying to join the two pieces together. *Arbut. H. of F. Bull*.
 Good cooks cannot abide what they justly call *fiddling* work, where abundance of time is spent, and little done. *Swift*.
FIDDLEFADDLE. *n. f.* [A cant word.] Trifles.
 She said that their grandfather had a horse shot at Edgehill, and their uncle was at the siege of Buda; with abundance of *fiddlefaddle* of the same nature. *Spektator*, N^o. 299.
FIDDLEFADDLE. *adj.* Trifling; giving trouble, or making a bustle about nothing.
 'She was a troublesome *fiddlefaddle* old woman, and so ceremonious that there was no bearing of her. *Arbut. J. Bull*.
FIDDLER. *n. f.* [from *fiddle*.] A musician; one that plays upon the fiddle.
 Let no fawcy *fiddler* presume to intrude,
 Unless he is sent for to vary our bliss. *Ben. Johnson*.
 Nero put the *fiddlers* to death, for being more skilful in the trade than he was. *Taylor's Rule of Living holy*.
 These will appear such chits in story,
 'Twill turn all politics to jests,
 To be repeated like John Dory,
 When *fiddlers* sing at feasts. *Dryden*.
 When misdeeds delight in her spinnet,
 A *fiddler* may a fortune get. *Swift*.
FIDDLERSTICK. *n. f.* [*fiddle* and *stick*.] The bow and hair which a fiddler draws over the strings of a fiddle.
 His grizzly beard was long and thick,
 With which he strung his *fiddlestick*. *Hudibras*, p. i.
FIDDLERSTRING. *n. f.* [*fiddle* and *string*.] The string of a fiddle; that which makes the noise.
 A *fiddlerstring*, moistened with water, will sink a note in a little time, and consequently must be relaxed or lengthened one sixteenth. *Arbutnot on Air*.
FIDELITY. *n. f.* [*fidelitas*, Latin; *fidelté*, French.]
 1. Honesty; veracity.
 The church, by her public reading of the book of God, preached only as a witness; now the principal thing required in a witness is a *fidelté*. *Hooker*, b. v. c. 19.
 2. Faithful adherence.
 They mistake credulity for *fidelté*. *Clarke*.
 To **FIDGET**. *v. n.* [A cant word.] To move nimbly and to *fidget*. Irregularly. It implies in Scotland agitation.
 Tim, thou'rt the Punch to stir up trouble in;
 You wriggle, *fidges*, and make a rout,
 Put all your brother puppets out;
 Run on in a perpetual round,
 To tease, perplex, disturb, confound. *Swift*.
FIDUCIAL. *adj.* [*fiducia*, Latin.] Confident; undoubting.
 Faith is cordial, and such as God will accept of, when it affords *fiducial* reliance on the promises, and obedient submission to the commands. *Hammond's Pract. Catech.*
FIDUCIARY. *n. f.* [*fiduciarius*, Latin.]
 1. One who holds any thing in trust.
 The second obstructive is that of the *fiduciary*, that faith is the only instrument of his justification; and excludes good works from contributing any thing toward it. *Hammond*.
FIDUCIARY. *adj.*
 1. Confident; steady; undoubting; untouched with doubt.
 That faith, which is required of us, is then perfect, when it produces in us a *fiduciary* assent to whatever the Gospel has revealed. *Wake's Preparation for Death*.
 2. Not to be doubted.
 Eliaana can rely no where upon mere love and *fiduciary* obedience, unless at her own home, where she is exemplarily loyal to herself in a high exact obedience. *Huvel's Voc. Forest.*
FIEF. *n. f.* [*fié*, French.] A fee; a manor; a possession held by some tenure of a superior.
 To the next realm the stretch'd her sway,
 For piteous near adjoining lay,
 A plentiful province and alluring prey;
 A chamber of dependencies was fram'd,
 And the whole *fié*, in right of poetry, she claim'd. *Dryd.*
 As they were honoured by great privileges, so their lands were in the nature of *fié*s, for which the possessors were obliged to do personal service at sea. *Arbutnot on Coins*.

FIE

- FIELD**. *n. f.* [*pelo*, Saxon; *feld*, German; *veld*, Dutch.]
 1. Ground not inhabited; not built on.
 Live with me, and be my love,
 And we will all the pleasure prove;
 That hills and vallies, dale and field,
 And all the craggy mountains yield. *Ralegh*.
 By the civil law the corpse of persons deceased were buried out of the city in the *fields*. *Ayliffe's Parergon*.
 2. Ground not enclosed.
 Field lands are not exempted from mildews, nor yet from smut, where it is more than in inclosed lands. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.
 3. Cultivated tract of ground.
 Or great Ostris, who first taught the swain
 In Pharian *fields* to sow the golden grain. *Pope's Statius*.
 4. The open country: opposed to quarters.
 Since his majesty went into the *field*,
 I have seen her rise from her bed. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.
 5. The ground of battle.
 What though the *field* be lost,
 All is not lost. *Shakespeare's Paradise Lost*, b. i.
 When a man is in the *field*, a moderate skill in fencing rather exposes him to the sword of his enemy than secures him from it. *Locke*.
 6. A battle; a campaign; the action of an army while it keeps the field.
 You maintain several factions;
 And whilst a *field* should be dispatch'd and fought,
 You are disputing of your generals. *Shakespeare's Henry VI*.
 7. A wide expanse.
 The god a clearer space for heav'n design'd;
 Where *fields* of light and liquid ether flow,
 Purg'd from the pond'rous dregs of earth below. *Dryden*.
 Ask of yonder argent *fields* above,
 Why Jove's satellites are less than Jove. *Pope's Essay on Man*.
 8. Space; compass; extent.
 The ill-natured man gives himself a large *field* to expatiate in: he exposes failings in human nature. *Addison's Spectator*.
 I should enter upon a *field* too wide, and too much beaten, if I should display all the advantages of peace. *Smalridge*.
 Who can this *field* of miracles survey,
 And not with Galen all in rapture say,
 Behold a God, adore him and obey. *Blackmore's Creation*.
 9. The ground or blank space on which figures are drawn.
 Let the *field* or ground of the picture be clean, light, and well united with colour. *Dryden's Duress*.
 10. [In heraldry.] The surface of a shield.
FIELDED. *adj.* [from *field*.] Being in field of battle.
 Now, Mars, I pray thee, make us quick in work;
 That we with smoking swords may march from hence,
 To help our *fielded* friends. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus*.
FIELD-BASIL. *n. f.* [*field* and *basil*.] A plant with a labiated flower, consisting of one leaf, whose upper lip is upright, roundish, and generally split in two; but the beard, or under lip, is divided into three segments: these flowers are disposed in whorles round the stalks, and are succeeded by oblong seeds. *Miller*.
FIELDBED. *n. f.* [*field* and *bed*.] A bed contrived to be set up easily in the field.
 Romeo, good-night; I'll to my trucklebed,
 This *fielded* is too cold for me to sleep. *Shak. Rom. and Jul.*
FIELDFARE. *n. f.* [*pelo* and *farra*, to wander in the fields.] A bird.
 Winter birds, as woodcocks and *fieldfares*, if they come early out of the northern countries, with us shew cold Winters. *Bacon's Natural History*, N^o. 816.
FIELDMARSHAL. *n. f.* [*field* and *marshal*.] Commander of an army in the field.
FIELDMOUSE. *n. f.* [*field* and *mouse*.] A mouse that burrows in banks, and makes her house with various apartments.
 The *fieldmouse* builds her garner under ground. *Dryden*.
 Fieldmice are apt to gnaw their roots, and kill them in hard Winters. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.
FIELDOFFICER. *n. f.* [*field* and *officer*.] An officer whose command in the field extends to a whole regiment: as the colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major.
FIELDPICCE. *adj.* [*field* and *picce*.] Small cannon used in battles, but not in sieges.
 The balsa planting his *fieldpieces* upon the hills on the North-side, did from thence grievously annoy the defendants. *Knolles's History of the Turks*.
FIEND. *n. f.* [*fiens*, *fiens*, Saxon, a foe.]
 1. An enemy; the great enemy of mankind; Satan; the devil.
 Tom is followed by the foul *fiend*. *Shakespeare's K. Lear*.
 2. Any infernal being.
 What now, had I a body again, I could,
 Coming from hell; what *fiends* would with should be,
 And Hannibal could not have wish'd to see. *B. Johnson's Cat.*
 The hell-hounds, as ungorg'd with flesh and blood,
 Pursue their prey, and seek their wonted food;
 The *fiend* remounts his courser. *Dryden's Thea. and Hon.*

O woman!